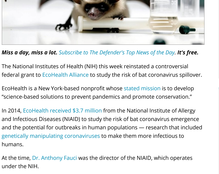
03/15/2021 / Updated: 03/16/2021

'Absolutely Reckless': NIH Allows EcoHealth Alliance to Resume Coronavirus Research

The National Institutes of Health this week reinstated a controversial federal grant to EcoHealth Alliance to study the risk of bat coronavirus spillover, sparking criticism from lawmakers and bioweapons experts.

By Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.



Miss a day, miss a lot. Subscribe to The Defender's Top News of the Day. It's free.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) this week reinstated a controversial federal grant to EcoHealth Alliance to study the risk of bat coronavirus spillover.

EcoHealth is a New York-based nonprofit whose stated mission is to develop "science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation."

In 2014, EcoHealth received $3.7 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to study the risk of bat coronavirus emergence and the potential for outbreaks in human populations — a project that included genetically manipulating coronaviruses to make them more infectious to humans.

At the time, Dr. Anthony Fauci was the director of the NIAID, which operates under the NIH.

Nearly $600,000 of the $3.7 million went to EcoHealth's collaborator, the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China.

However, in April 2020, under the Trump administration, the NIH terminated EcoHealth's grant over concerns the organization had violated the grant terms, using U.S. taxpayer money to fund gain-of-function research at the Wuhan lab.

EcoHealth on Monday announced that the NIH reinstated the grant, but with new terms, and that EcoHealth will collaborate with the Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School to study zoonotic coronaviruses "with the aim of being transparent about the study's goals."

Peter Daszak, Ph.D. — who secretly collaborated with Ralph Baric, Ph.D., and Fauci to steer the media and scientific community away from questions about whether COVID-19 could have originated in a lab — is EcoHealth's executive director and principal investigator.

Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.), who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee that found multiple serious violations by EcoHealth of the contractual terms and conditions of the 2014 NIH grant, said the decision to reinstate the grant was "absolutely reckless," given the organization's "negligence and breach of their contract with the NIH on overseeing research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV)."

Francis Boyle, J.D., Ph.D., bioweapons expert and professor of international law at the University of Illinois, told The Defender he wasn't surprised to see the grant reinstated.

"People involved in this, like EcoHealth Alliance, Fauci, the Biden administration, et cetera, know they have crossed the Rubicon and there is no turning back. And they don't intend to turn back unless and until we stop them. It's as simple as that," he added.

Boyle, who authored the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1989 (BWC) that was approved unanimously by both houses of the U.S. Congress and signed to law by President George Bush Sr., also added:

> "Clearly, all this gain-of-function work is offensive biological warfare weapons work in violation of the convention and my biological weapons anti-terrorism act, the penalty for which is life imprisonment."

In January, the Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report outlining missed deadlines, confusing protocols and misspent funds in EcoHealth Alliance's grant management, particularly as it related to the Wuhan lab.

In response, HHS set new terms for the four-year, now-$2.9 million NIAID grant, under which EcoHealth will receive $576,290 this year.

Under the new terms, EcoHealth is barred from conducting any research in China or collecting any new samples from vertebrate animals and must implement additional oversight of its finances and accounting practices.

The conditions also prevent EcoHealth from doing any work "involving enhanced potential pandemic pathogens," although the organization can continue to work with "highly pathogenic agents" or "infectious agent[s] or toxin[s]" that may warrant a biosafety level (BSL) of 3 or higher. The Wuhan lab was a BSL-4 lab.

EcoHealth is the recipient of 17 active U.S. government grants totaling more than $50 million, The Epoch Times reported.

Publications like Nature and Science celebrated the reinstatement of the grant, Nature said the research was "essential for preventing the next pandemic."

Science wrote that the Trump administration called for the cancellation of the grant, "amid unsupported allegations that a lab leak at WIV started the COVID-19 pandemic."

The origins of the COVID-19 virus continue to be debated, but evidence has emerged over the past several years that the "lab-leak theory" is a plausible hypothesis despite attempts to dismiss it.

Several U.S. agencies, former agency officials and independent scientists have concluded that a Wuhan lab leak most likely caused the COVID-19 pandemic. A U.S. Department of Energy report released in February and a Senate report released in April both arrived at the conclusion that COVID-19 likely stemmed from a lab leak.

Subscribe to The Defender – It's Free!

First Name... Last Name... Email... SIGN UP

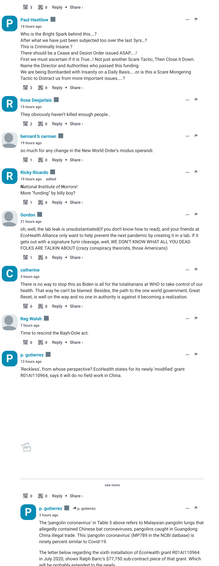
SUGGEST A CORRECTION

Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 10 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in human geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's from the University of Texas at Austin.

Sign up for free news and updates from Children's Health Defense. CHD focuses on legal strategies to defend the health of our children and obtain justice for those injured. We can't do it without your support

Republishing Guidelines


Childrens Health Defense Comment Policy
We welcome relevant and respectful comments. Off-topic comments may be removed.
Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.
Got It
18 Comments
Login
Join the discussion...
LOG IN WITH
OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS
Name
Share
Best
Newest
Oldest
Ekkur37
a day ago
Absolutely deadly is more like it. There will never be a healthy purpose for mRNA substances.
Reply
Share
Chalwallah
a day ago
These are biological weapons being developed for use against the people regardless of the lies they are telling.
Reply
Share
mcleinz
a day ago
We have morons running the country. Should we really expect anything good to come out of Washington anymore? Ain't gonna happen until RFK,Jr is in the Oval office.
Reply
Share
Joanne DiMassa
19 hours ago
Not morons. Criminals.
Reply
Share
Rose Desjarlais
19 hours ago
Rich ones at that...
Reply
Share
catherine
19 hours ago
RFK, Jr. isn't going to be president. His party will never give him the nomination as he has dissented from their tyrannical and anti-human "public health" agenda. Even if he were elected, he probably won't get the U.S. out of the UN nor dismantle the totally corrupted CDC and FDA and both would be necessary if we expect this country to survive.
Reply
Share
Antoinette Bernadette
a day ago
So how do we stop it...obviously the supposed bio weapons act isn't being respected what's the sense?
Reply
Share
Gordon
21 hours ago
we stop it when some authorized health expert with real chutzpah shows up at our doors with a syringe and tried to force it on us
Reply
Share
JS
18 hours ago
Far out - so why are these people not in jail? There is nothing o good about GoF research. It should be banned.
Reply
Share
Paul Hastilow
19 hours ago
Who is the Bright Spark behind this...?
After what we have just been subjected too over the last 2yrs..?
This is Criminally Insane.?
There should be a Cease and Desist Order issued ASAP...!
First we must ascertain if it is True..? Not just another Scare Tactic, Then Close it Down.
Name the Director and Authorities who passed this funding.
We are being Bombarded with Insanity on a Daily Basis....or is this a Scare Mongering Tactic to Distract us from more important issues...?
Reply
Share
Rose Desjarlais
19 hours ago
They obviously haven't killed enough people..
Reply
Share
bernard b carman
19 hours ago
so much for any change in the New World Order's modus operandi.
Reply
Share
Ricky Ricardo
19 hours ago edited
National Institute of Morons!
More 'funding' for billy boy?
Reply
Share
Gordon
21 hours ago
oh, well, the lab leak is unsubstantiated(if you don't know how to read), and your friends at EcoHealth Alliance only want to help prevent the next pandemic by creating it in a lab. If it gets out with a signature furin cleavage, well, WE DONT KNOW WHAT ALL YOU DEAD FOLKS ARE TALKIN ABOUT! (crazy conspiracy theorists, those Americans)
Reply
Share
catherine
3 hours ago
There is no way to stop this as Biden is all for the totalitarians at WHO to take control of our health. That way he can't be blamed. Besides, the path to the one world government, Great Reset, is well on the way and no one in authority is against it becoming a realization.
Reply
Share
Reg Walsh
7 hours ago
Time to rescind the Bayh-Dole act.
Reply
Share
p. gutierrez
Reckless', from whose perspective? EcoHealth states for its newly 'modified' grant RO1AI110964, says it will do no field work in China.
see more
Reply
Share
P. gutierrez
3 hours ago
The 'pangolin coronavirus' in Table 3 above refers to Malaysian pangolin lungs that allegedly contained Chinese bat coronaviruses, pangolins caught in Guangdong China illegal trade. This 'pangolin coronavirus' (MP789 in the NCBI database) is ninety percent similar to Covid-19.
The letter below regarding the sixth installation of EcoHealth's grant RO1AI110964 in July 2020, shows Peter's $17,750 sub-contract piece of that grant. Which will probably be extended to extend the newly modified 2023 grant.
see more
Reply
Share
Subscribe
Privacy
Do Not Sell My Data

Latest News

'Absolutely Reckless': NIH Allows EcoHealth Alliance to Resume Coronavirus Research

'Just Like Regular Pork': FDA Grants 'Investigational' Status to Lab-Grown Products Made From Gene-Edited Pigs

More Pesticides on Kids' Food? EPA Wants to Reapprove Chemical Linked to Reproductive, Developmental Issues

MORE NEWS

Latest Views

Chemical in Popular Bug Spray Brands May Cause Neurodevelopmental Damage

Top 30 'Nonprofit' Hospitals Pocketed $23 Billion in Taxpayer-Funded COVID Relief

Can We Reboot the Environmental Movement — So It Protects Freedom, Too?

MORE VIEWS

GET FREE News & Updates!

First Name...

Last Name...

Email...

SIGN UP

Get Text Alerts

Sign up for breaking news from The Defender.

Currently only eligible for numbers in the U.S. and Canada.

Phone

REQUIRED. Phone number must be in a standard 10-digit format: +12345678900 or 123-456-7890.

CONTINUE

Children's Health Defense

Children's Health Defense® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to end childhood health epidemics by working aggressively to eliminate harmful exposures, hold those responsible accountable and establish safeguards to prevent future harm. We fight on all fronts using legal advocacy, science, education and the power of media as advocate for worldwide rights to health freedom and bodily autonomy.

EN

SUBSCRIBE - IT'S FREE! BECOME A MEMBER MEMBER LOGIN

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. EIN #26-0388604

© 2016 - 2023 Children's Health Defense® • All Rights Reserved.